

AT HIGH-RISK



The bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*: a plants' killer!

Description

Xylella fastidiosa Welles *et al.* (1987) is a gram-negative bacterium of the Xanthomonadaceae family.

In Italy, it was first detected in Apulien in October 2013 associated with the Olive Quick Decline. The spread of *X. fastidiosa* can be lethal for host plants as it obstructs their xilematic vessels reducing the sap flow from the plant's roots to its top. Recent experiments has proved *Philaenus spumarius* (Hemiptera: Aphrophoridae) as the only organism able to transmit *X. fastidiosa* from infected to pest free plants. Nevertheless, the existence of additional potential vectors needs to be further investigated.

Symptoms and damages

The most frequent and typical symptoms are leaf scorching with dieback of the leaf tip and margins as well as of the crown, affecting firstly isolated branches, later the twigs, up to the whole plant. The inside wood of younger branches, limbs and of the trunk turn brownish.

Host plants

Xylella fastidiosa affects several species of ornamental and vegetable plants (cherry, almond and olive trees etc.). An host plants' full list is available on the webpage: <http://www.assam.marche.it/xylella>.

The **Marche Region** is free from *X. fastidiosa*, however, due to the risk of introduction from affected areas, controls at customs and on the territory have been increased. Moreover, the immediate notification of suspected presences is strongly recommended.

What's in case of suspected occurrence?

In case of suspected symptoms do **immediately inform** the Regional Plant Protection Organization:

1. contact the closest office of the Regional Plant Protection Organization by e-mail or telephone (providing name, surname, address, telephone number, e-mail and exact detection site);
2. if possible, to be sure not to have confused it with other insects, do send a photograph to fit@assam.marche.it;
3. it is forbidden to transport alive insects .

More information: <http://www.assam.marche.it/xylella>

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Main headquarter and Province of Ancona:	☎ 071-8081	☎ 071-85979
Provinces of Ascoli Piceno and Fermo:	☎ 0735-654131	☎ 0735-654131
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